

**Wilmington Urban Area  
Technical Coordinating Committee  
Wednesday, January 17, 2018  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Mike Kozlosky, Wilmington MPO  
Don Bennett, City of Wilmington  
Amy Kimes, Wilmington MPO  
Ed Parvin, Town of Carolina Beach  
Nancy Avery, Town of Kure Beach  
Rebekah Roth, New Hanover County  
John Allen, Town of Bellville

Andrew Neylon, Town of Leland  
Barnes Sutton, Town of Navassa  
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County  
Allen Serkin, Cape Fear  
Council of Governments  
Albert Eby, Cape Fear Public  
Transportation Authority

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Kozlosky called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that he has some additional information for the Updates section of the meeting.

Ms. Bunch made the motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Eby and the motion carried unanimously.

**3. Election of Officers**

Mr. Kozlosky acknowledged the presence of new members. All members present introduced themselves.

Mr. Kozlosky opened the floor to nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

Mr. Eby nominated Mr. Kozlosky for Chair, and Mr. Bennett for Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Serkin and carried unanimously.

Ms. Bunch made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Mr. Serkin, and the motion carried unanimously.

**4. Consent Agenda**

a. **Approval of TCC Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2017**

b. **Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for the FY 19 Unified Planning Work Program**

c. **Opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for 2016-2025 STIP/MTIP and 2018-2027 STIP/MTIP Amendment #18-1**

d. **Resolution Adopting Targets for Safety Performance Measures for the Wilmington Urban Area MPO**

Mr. Bennett made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and to forward Items 4a through 4d to the Board for consideration. Ms. Kimes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Serkin, Mr. O'Brien stated that the process burden to develop local safety performance measures exceeded any benefit and might conflict with the state's measures. He also noted that the reporting requirements will be fairly relaxed in the mid-term. However, future planning cycles may require a more evidence-based, quantitative process to demonstrate progress toward the targets.

## **5. Discussion**

### **a. Direct Attributable Programs**

Ms. Kimes gave an update on the Direct Attributable Programs. She reported that the Board may wish to move forward with the recommendations that the TCC made in October.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the recommendations will necessitate that constitution of a work group. He noted that it would be a discussion item for the February meeting.

Mr. Eby expressed concerns regarding the limitations of the allocation formula, and how to deal with it in the short-term.

Ms. Kimes responded that Fiscal Year 2018 allocation funds will go towards shortfalls. She noted that the change would not be made until Fiscal Year 2019.

Mr. Eby inquired about older funds. Mr. Kozlosky suggested scheduling a meeting next week with WAVE Transit.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Roth regarding feasibility studies, Ms. Kimes stated that the process is in transition and will continue to evolve with further input.

### **b. 2018 Socio-Economic Data Projections**

Mr. Kozlosky gave an update on 2018 Socio-Economic Data Projections. He commented that some concerns exist regarding data received from NCDOT. He noted that the MPO was scheduled to meet with DOT regarding the projections; however, the meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather and the meeting is in the process of being rescheduled sometime in the next two weeks.

### **c. Social Media Policy**

Ms. Lorenzo gave an overview of the Social Media Policy. She stated that the MPO has three social media accounts. She noted that Facebook and Twitter are updated with the latest transportation projects and other items related to transportation. She added that the Instagram page is not active yet. She displayed the pages and encouraged members to share MPO posts.

Mr. Serkin expressed concerns that he and his organization have none of these accounts; but would like access to the content. He expressed interest in an option to subscribe to a blog or listserv instead. Ms. Lorenzo pointed out the possibility of visiting the Facebook page without an account.

Mr. Kozlosky commented that the MPO will be using social media more. He noted that the need for increased branding was identified in the SWOT analysis for the organizational improvements.

**d. Cape Fear Crossing – Toll Facility**

Mr. Kozlosky gave an overview of the Cape Fear Crossing – Toll Facility. He stated that many years ago, the Cape Fear Crossing was identified as a potential toll facility; but was then removed from legislation. He noted that the current MTP identifies it as a toll facility.

Mr. Kozlosky proposed to ask the Board if it has any interest in the project being evaluated as a toll facility by the North Carolina Turnpike Authority. He noted that no commitment is required to determine the project's viability for tolling. He added that the evaluation may help with scoring, prioritization, and finding a mechanism to fund a project of this magnitude. A question/answer and discussion period was held.

**e. Independence Boulevard Extension**

Mr. Kozlosky gave an update on the Independence Boulevard Extension. He reminded members that in January 2015, the Board adopted a resolution identifying the support for retention of the extension on the MPO's long-range plan and identified and supported the need for an additional north/south corridor. He noted that the Board also supported the completion of the draft EIS and preservation of a corridor; but opposed the design of an elevated facility and encouraged the MPO, DOT and CSX to develop an at-grade option.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that CSX does not support at-grade options for rail crossings from a safety and operations standpoint. He noted that this project is identified for right of way acquisition in 2022 and 2023 with construction in 2025, 2026 and 2027. This project is identified as committed. He added that discussion with City Council is scheduled for next Monday and with the Board on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Serkin expressed concerns regarding the funding should the City be opposed to the project. Mr. Kozlosky responded that DOT will have to decide if it would build a project in a community where it isn't wanted. He noted that the MPO Board could refuse to adopt the STIP or adopt it without the project. He added that DOT is exploring other alternatives to minimize the footprint of an elevated facility.

**f. 2016-2025 STIP/MTIP and 2018-2027 STIP/MTIP Modification #18-1**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the STIP modification is for informational purposes only and will be included in the next packet for approval. He pointed out that there are a number of efforts in Pender County to accelerate some of the projects.

**g. Wilmington Urban Area MPO's Draft Prioritization 5.0 Local Input Methodology**

Mr. Lorenzo gave an overview of the Draft Prioritization 5.0 Local Input Methodology. She stated that last year, the state reviewed its standards for MPO/RPO local input methodology and changed the organization of the document to provide greater transparency. She noted that staff made a few changes including replacing difficult to understand criteria (combinations for multimodal) with a point category for inclusion of the MPO Board's Strategic Business Plan, which was adopted last year.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the draft would be brought to the Board prior to submitting it to the state for consideration. He noted that any suggested changes will be brought back for adoption.

**h. Feasibility Study for a Connection Between the Wilmington International Airport and Wilmington Multi-modal Transportation Center**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the Board requested that staff return with some options for a feasibility study. He noted that staff developed five options;

1. Budget funds in the UPWP;
2. Complete a feasibility study in-house;
3. Hire an intern;
4. Request the Transit Authority to conduct a demonstration project to determine ridership; or
5. Wait until the project is incorporated into the long-range plan.

Mr. Eby pointed out that other projects might have a higher priority based on limited interest from the Board, and that it may be cost prohibitive at \$125 million a mile for rail connection. A question/answer and discussion period was held.

Mr. Serkin suggested that the NC Rail Division might conduct a high-level study, such as the one it did in Columbus County.

**6. Updates**

**a. MPO Staffing**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the MPO is preparing to make an offer to fill the Project Engineer vacancy. He expressed regret that the preferred candidate for Senior Transportation Planner has accepted a position in Raleigh, making it necessary to again re-advertise the position. He added that the TDM position will be advertised shortly and expressed the desire to have all positions filled by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

A brief question/ answer and discussion period was held regarding the funding for positions.

**b. Crossing over the Cape Fear**

**c. Wilmington Urban Area MPO**

**d. Wilmington Urban Area MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

Mr. Lorenzo, Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Madsen gave an update on the MTP.

Ms. Lorenzo stated that the at the last meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee, the members recommended branding the plan as the "Cape Fear Moving Forward 2045" with a navy blue and orange color scheme, which will go before the Board for consideration. She noted that the SWOT analysis determined the vision statement and goals of the MTP.

There were no comments or concerns regarding any of the choices.

Mr. O'Brien gave an overview of public outreach efforts for the MTP, which will include presentations to member jurisdictions, an online website, an enhanced social media process, a web-based comment tool in the form of a map, and transportation surveys.

Mr. Madsen gave an overview of the crowdsourcing map. He noted that the online tool is designed for mobile use as well. He gave a demonstration of the tool's use and explained that all the data is anonymous and stored on the MPO's GIS servers. He

added that a QR code for quick access to the online tool is available for online and printed use on brochures, etc.

A brief question/ answer and discussion period was held regarding duplicate entries.

Mr. Eby requested to change the name of the mass transportation category to transit or public transportation.

Mr. Serkin expressed concern regarding multi-modal requests. Mr. Madsen responded that the categories help with visual congestion. He noted that all the categories can be composited at the end of the data collection process.

**e. Cape Fear Public Transportation**

Mr. Eby commented that WAVE has advertised the bid for the multimodal center and hopes to award construction next month.

**7. Announcements**

Mr. Kozlosky stated that at the January meeting of the MPO Board and the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of City Council, will include an update and some discussion on interchanges, specifically the Military Cutoff Road and Eastwood Road intersection.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Serkin, Mr. Kozlosky stated that some concerns exist regarding the impact of grade-separated interchanges on the community and surrounding neighborhoods. He added that in the City's Capital Improvements Program, about \$560,000 exists for each location to provide aesthetic enhancements.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that Capital Associated Industries (CAI) will give a presentation on the results from the MPO's compensation analysis at the January MPO Board meeting.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that the present location for TCC meetings will undergo renovations and be transitioned into Councilmembers' offices. He added that the MPO is searching for another location for meetings; but has only been successful in finding multiple locations.

Mr. Eby and Mr. Serkin offered the meeting facilities of their organizations.

Mr. Eby stated that the next Public Transportation Association conference will be held April 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> in Wilmington.

Mr. Kozlosky stated that NCDOT Public Transportation Strategic Plan will be held March 21<sup>st</sup> from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. at the Raleigh Convention Center.

- Next WMPO Bike/Ped Committee meeting: February 13<sup>th</sup>
- Next TCC Meeting: February 14<sup>th</sup>

**8. Adjournment**

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

**THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE NOT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS.  
THE ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS ARE RECORDED ON A COMPACT DISC  
AS PART OF THIS RECORD.**